

Edna Ferber

Edna Ferber was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1886, and spent her adolescent years in Appleton, Wisconsin. She attended Ryan High School where she was active in the debate and literary society, wrote for the school newspaper and dreamed of being an actress. Her family could not afford to send her to her dream school, the Northwestern University School of Elocution, so Edna decided to get a job at the Appleton newspaper. She was the first female reporter in Appleton. She loved her new job and reported on various topics from the Poor Farm to the Barnum and Bailey circus.

At age eighteen, Ferber was hired by the *Milwaukee Journal* and wrote for that paper for four years. After these stressful years, Edna returned to Appleton to recuperate and began to write short stories, which immediately were a hit amongst readers. One of her first short stories created a new character in fiction, the American Businesswomen.

Edna Ferber became one of America's most widely known authors. Two of her short stories were eventually produced as plays. She went on to write 6 plays for Broadway and many of her books eventually became movies.

In 1925, Edna Ferber was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for her novel *So Big*. Ferber's legacy lives on through twelve novels, eleven volumes of short stories, six major plays and two autobiographies.

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